

CAMBRIDGE, MD.
BANNER

E-5,706

SEP 25 1967

FOIAb3b

A Matter Of Privacy

Privacy is a priceless commodity in this era of togetherness. Rare is the man or woman who can find a few minutes alone during the day for reading, meditating or just woolgathering. Population growth, the takeover of the countryside by the suburbs are both certain in the years ahead to put added pressure on citizens everywhere.

To ensure a measure of privacy in our daily lives, some 55 U.S. Senators have cosponsored legislation which would forbid the federal government agencies from requiring prospective employees to tell about their private lives.

Testimony gathered by a Senate subcommittee headed by Senator Sam Ervin has been bloodcurdling. In job questionnaires prospective employees have been asked about their religious beliefs, about their attitude toward sex matters and about other areas which have no bearing on the job being sought.

The Senators are willing to concede that a few selective agencies like the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency need to know a great deal about people who will be working in sensitive areas. You could hardly expect the CIA to place on its payrolls men and women whose past activities might open them up to blackmail and other pressures.

Another intrusion on our privacy is the explosion of electronic devices. For a price you can purchase gadgets which allow you to eavesdrop, to take pictures undetected and in other ways to be your own spy. Even kiddies at Christmas time receive Agent 007 kits complete with everything except the authorization to kill which James Bond alone enjoys.

The bill introduced into the U.S. Senate is referred to as a "bill of rights for federal employees." Constant watch is needed to guarantee that the right to some degree of privacy is left to those both inside and outside of government.

CPYRGHT